

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet includes changes to Fig. 4. This sheet, which includes Fig. 4, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 4.

The change comprises the addition of the reference character G and an arrow and lines to define the girth or width of the grooves G in the workpiece. See paragraph [0084].

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Office Action of March 11, 2005 has been carefully considered and this Response has been prepared to address all of the issues raised. It is submitted that, in the light of this Response the application is in condition for allowance and favorable reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. Briefly addressing the Office Action and the Response:

Election/Restriction

1. Applicant requests that the non-elected claims 23–34 remain in this application pending filing continuation applications directed thereto.

35 USC § 112

2. Claims 20 and 35, rejected as method claims, have been canceled.

3. Claims 21 and 21[22] were rejected for lack of antecedent basis. Claims 21, 22, 11 and allowed claim 15 have been amended to provide the antecedent.

35 USC § 102

4. The rejection of claims 1-5 and 8-12 as anticipated by Edgar is respectfully traversed. Edgar teaches a different tool for a different purpose. However, claim amendments have been made to distinguish the claimed inventions with clarifying specificity.

35 USC § 103

5. The rejection of claims 6, 7, 13 and 14 as unpatentable over Edgar in view of Takada et al. is respectfully traversed. There is no way that the Takada et al double sided belt could be processed with the Edgar apparatus.

DISCUSSION

Claims 1-5 and 8-12 have been rejected on Edgar. In the Edgar patent, the work piece 10 is an “inside member”. That is an internal coupler with spline keys 13 of constant diameter with interdental spaces 12. The spaces 12 are defined by preformed clearance grooves 14 formed by a hob and defining a root surface ‘a’. The only purpose or function of the Edgar grinding element E is to taper the root surface ‘a’ between the clearance grooves 14. This is accomplished by a top surface c of a helical grinding thread 16 formed on the periphery of a base of abrasive material 15.

The Edgar grinding element E is not being used to form grooves in a workpiece. The Edgar Grinding element E is designed to and used to grind off the top of root surfaces “a” between two milled clearance grooves 14 in the interdental space 12 between the spline keys 13. The Action cites Edgar at (col.2, lines 7-8) for the proposition that the helix of Edgar’s grinding element E is “...arranged in a plurality of or generally parallel groove cutting patterns.” The single helical thread 16 is just that. It is a single thread, not “parallel groove cutting patterns.” Moreover the thread 16 serves no “groove cutting” function at all. “The specific form of grinding element illustrated herein is intended only for finishing the root surface a.” (page 2, lines 32-34)

In the Action it is also stated that “Edgar also teaches that the abrasive particles on the ramp top are displaced from the abrasive particles on the base surface....” There is no suggestion in Edgar of the use of “abrasive particles” attached to his “grinding element E.” To the contrary, Edgar states: “the grinding element adapted for grinding the root surfaces a, in its preferred form, has a cylindrical abrasive body 15 formed with an axial bore 15a.” (page 1, line 55-page 2, line 3). The use of abrasive particles on a steel base to shape the grooves is an important part of the teaching of the application.

Claims 1 and 8, the independent claims at issue have been amended to provide greater clarity and specificity. The claims now indicate that the tool is for “...removing material from a flat surface of a workpiece.” The claims further recite that the base has a “flat base surface” and that the ramp has “a flat ramp surface.” The claims further more specifically recite that abrasive particles on the ramp surface and the ramp top surface are what “define the groove.” The Edgar patent does not anticipate the claimed invention. The invention is not even suggested by Edgar. Edgar in no way would have made the invention obvious.

Claims 6,7,13 and 14 have been rejected based on Edgar in view of Takada et al. In view of the foregoing discussion regarding the shortcomings of the Edgar reference, it is manifest that Takada et al cannot remedy Edgar’s shortcomings. To the contrary, Edgar could not be modified or adapted in any way to manufacture a V-ribbed power transmission belt. Takada et al teach virtually nothing about the grinding of the belts. “A grinding wheel 52, rotating in the direction of the arrow 53, is pressed against the exposed outer surface of

the moving sleeve 40 to form the ribs 34 and grooves 54 between adjacent ribs 34.” (Col. 7, lines 61-62). That teaches only that V belts were known and could be made by grinding. That certainly would not suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art to somehow adapt the helical surface grinded to forming grooves.

The Action indicates that claim 38 is objected to only because of rejection of parent claim 14. Applicant submits that claim 14 is allowable and requests allowance of Claim 38. Claims 36 and 37 have been found allowable. Applicant submits that Claim 36, now dependent on claim 10, is now allowable. Claim 37 has been amended to depend from allowed claim 18. Applicant requests allowance of claim 37.

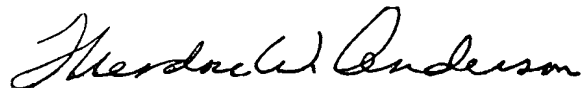
CONCLUSION

The Examiner is requested to approve the addition of the reference G to Fig. 4 of Sheet 1 of the drawings. The addition makes Fig. 4 consistent with the specification and other figures.

For the reasons set forth in detail above, applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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Amendment or ROA - Regular (Revised 2005 05 11)